

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are in the case. Claims 9-12 and 16-22 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 3-8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 1-8 and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 & 103. The Examiner has indicated that claims 13-15 and 28-30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claims, for which Applicant expresses its appreciation. Claims 1, 3, 7, 14-15, 23, 25, and 29-30 have been amended and claims 8, 13, and 27-28 have been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. However, as Applicant's attorney explained to the Examiner, the prosecution of this application has been recently transferred to a new firm, Luedeka, Neely and Graham. In fact, this application and the October 19, 2006, office action were not sent to the new firm until April 18, 2007, one day prior to the statutory six month deadline for a response. Nevertheless, the Examiner explained that additional time for a response was unavailable. Accordingly, in view of the brief time for review, consideration, and response, although Applicant does not believe the amendments are necessary to obtain issuance of the claims, Applicant has amended the independent claims to include limitations of allowed dependent claims in order to maintain the pendency of the application and move it towards issuance. Additionally, Applicant has amended Claim 3 for purposes of clarification, in view of the 112 rejection.

In view of the amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that a full and complete response to the office action is provided herein, and that the application is now fully in condition for allowance. Action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

In the event this response is not timely filed, Applicant hereby petitions for the appropriate extension of time and requests that the fee for the extension be charged to deposit account 12-2355. If any other fees are due or are required by this amendment or otherwise, such as fees for additional claims, any/all such fees may be charged to deposit account 12-2355. Should the Examiner have questions or require further clarification of

the invention. it is requested that he contact the undersigned before issuing the next office action.

Sincerely,

LUEDEKA, NEELY & GRAHAM, P.C.

By: 

April 19, 2007

Michael J. Bradford. Reg. No. 52,646